

From: **Estevan Montemayor** estevan.montemayor@lacity.org
Subject: Fwd: FW: Weekend Emails
Date: April 12, 2016 at 2:06 AM JST
To: Catherine Landers catherine.landiers@lacity.org, Sarah Dusseault

COUNCILMEMBER • DISTRICT 4
DAVID RYU
SERVING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS

Estevan Montemayor
Director of Communications
Los Angeles City Councilmember David Ryu
Direct: 213.473.2342
<http://davidryu.lacity.org/>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Don**
Date: Mon, Apr 11, 2016 at 8:13 AM
Subject: FW: Weekend Emails
To: Estevan Montemayor <estevan.montemayor@lacity.org>

Good morning Estevan,

Emails in one place from the weekend.....

Don

Don

From: **Don**
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2016 8:07 AM
To: John; Stacy
Cc: **Don**
Subject: Weekend Emails

Susan

Travis

Good morning,

I made a conscious decision to not forward emails over the weekend in hopes that you would have a more pleasant weekend.... needless to say, the conversation on the Runyon Court Renovation is far from over. The following was received this weekend:

1. **Anastasia** Don, CC: Ryu and his staff, HHWNC Board at 12:45pm on Saturday

Dear Don,

As you know, at our meeting on April 4th, the HHWNC Board in attendance voted unanimously to oppose the basketball court in Runyon Canyon, which included a request that the City obtain an EIR report prior to engaging in any development activities at Runyon. This subject is continuing to garner a lot of media and public attention both pro and con and, as I am sure you know, a possible upcoming lawsuit and/or injunction based on CEQA and/or other issues. This is so very unfortunate for all concerned and could have/should have been so easily avoided. I am sorry to see your FORC folks take so much heat as well, since your original intentions began so honorably to one and all. The principal of transparency is meant to protect all parties – including you and your board members - hence its importance in all matters pertaining to city and state, and ultimately, national government.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Last year, at your request, HHWNC transferred \$7,500 to the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks which, we understand, were transferred to FORC. These funds were specifically designated for "farm fencing to help prevent erosion from off-trail hiking in Runyon Canyon Park". These funds came from our annual allotment out of the City General Fund.

When we approved your request, the HHWNC Board was not informed about your deal with RAP along with another substantial donor, or your plan to build a basketball court in a wilderness area of Runyon Canyon Park.

Unfortunately, now as president of HHWNC I am now in the uncomfortable position of having to request an accounting from you for the \$7,500 with documentary support, in order to report back to our board and stakeholder requests as to the status of those funds and whether or not these funds have been spent for the project designated or are in a trust or ? Stakeholders are now questioning us to be sure that city general funds (tax payer dollars) have not been spent on any other projects and are not related to the Basketball Court Project or anything else unspecified in the request. In addition to these funds, I have been asked to identify the park bench HHWNC supported/paid for prior to that. There was supposed to be a small plaque on the bench giving HHWNC recognition with our website to encourage stakeholder registration. Perhaps you could provide photographs for our board to view and that we can share with stakeholders who request this information.

In the event these records are not in your possession, we request that you provide us with the names and contact information for all of the parties who have any documents relating to these funds so we can follow through.

As you may know, Councilmember David Ryu has formed a Discretionary Funds Task Force, which I chair. His policy is all about transparency and this Task Force voluntarily agreed to abide by the Brown Act. One of the actions this board has taken is to require that those who request and receive funds from CD4, be it the Discretionary account or CRA funds due to be returned or any other source, report back to the Task Force or CD4 staff as to the final use of the funds with corresponding documentation and/or photographs. This policy was not in place during the prior CD4 administration.

It's a good policy because it promotes follow through and protection of tax payer dollars.

Thank you for your cooperation, and I am sure, good will toward the future relations between our organizations.

Anastasia

2. Anastasia Don, CC: Ryu and his staff, HHWNC Board at 4:21pm on Saturday

Dear Don,

One of our board members brought to my attention an additional donation made at our April 16, 2014 board meeting.

The minutes are attached for your review.

It notes that an initial request for \$15,000 was made which was amended to a request for \$10,581 due to a miscalculation in the original motion. This amendment carried and then was amended again to \$7,919.94 for equipment and improvements to Runyon Canyon Park. The motion was made by Josh Kopel and seconded by Jeff Papes. If Josh was on your board at that time, we should have been informed as it would have been a conflict of interest. But I am unaware if he was or was not. The first I heard that he had been on your board was during our recent conversations leading up to the Special Meeting on April 4th.

Can you please advise us as to how those funds were used with specific documentation of the expenditures? While the amount is very specific to the penny, the actual equipment and/or improvements are not detailed here. This, of course, is in addition to my other request earlier today. If to your knowledge I am missing something else, please advise... Or I am sure a tenacious stakeholder or boardmember will research it further.

3. Michael _____ HHWNC Treasurer to Don at 1:32 pm on Sunday

Do you have a map showing where the 900' of fencing that HHWNC paid for will be installed? People are asking for information about where it will go and when it will be installed. I am also being asked, "what did we get for the \$7,919 we contributed to RAP at FORC's request in April 2014?". Do you have an accounting of what that paid for? Who at RAP would you suggest we question about this?

4. Laura _____ Don, \$1,000 donor to FORC on 4/4/2016, email at 4:39pm on Sunday

Hi Don

As you undoubtedly are aware, there is a lot of animosity about the current plan to have a BB court.

I believe FORC is well intentioned and I like many of the plans that it has proposed But I think your greater goal of improving the canyon is getting lost in the shadow of the hated BB court. FORC's backing of the court has created a lot of distrust about FORC.

There are homeowners that are about to file a lawsuit to prevent further construction on the court.

I don't know if FORC approved it or inherited it but I do know that it wasn't done following a proper protocol and if you want to do good for the park, it would be better to stop construction until proper channels are followed. if not you will never get the support you need to help improve Runyan Canyon.

And that would be a pity...

5. Casey _____ Initiated Neighborhoods 4 LA to Don at 5:39pm on Sunday

Don,

Just wanted to say I'm sorry this thing with the basketball court has turned into such a mess. Even though I've resigned from the HHWNC, I'm still copied on their e-mails, and reading the last few from Anastasia made me realize how bad this thing has gotten. I imagine the whole experience has been pretty rough for you.

Even though mistakes may have been made, I know FORC has been working hard to revitalize a public resource that has been badly neglected and abused. I hope the public outcry dies down soon, and things return to some kind of normal. I have a lot of respect for you, and I know you've done the best you can for Runyan Canyon and the community.

6. Carol Sidlow of the Hillside Federation has asked that the HF Board of Directors discuss the Runyon Court Renovation project at the next meeting, 4 May 2016

Best,

Casey

Laura

Michael _____

Iteris Vice President

Los Angeles, CA 90068

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Thank you.

Anastasia

Don

Don

